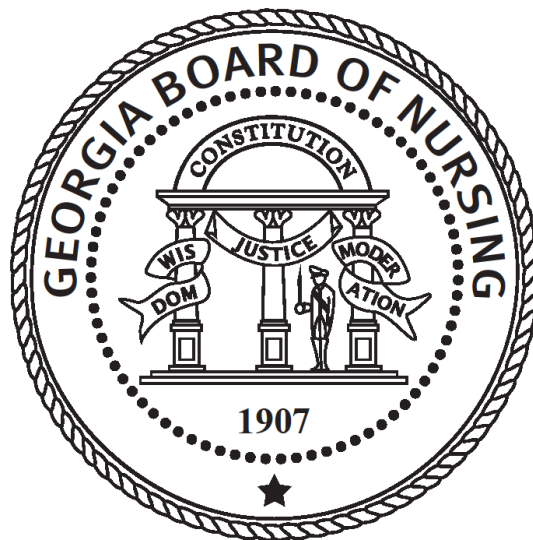

Georgia Board of Nursing



Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

Introduction

The Georgia Board of Nursing ("Board") was created on August 22, 1907 by an act of the Georgia General Assembly.

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed practical nurses, registered professional nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, licensed practical nursing education programs and registered nursing education programs.

The Board exists to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare through legislative regulation and control of practical nursing and registered professional education and practice.

The Board is comprised of thirteen members appointed by the Governor: two registered nursing educators, one practical nursing educator, two registered nurses employed in nursing service administration, one registered nurse employed in nursing home administration or nursing service administration, two advanced practice registered nurses, one additional registered nurse, three licensed practical nurses, and one consumer member.

The Board develops rules and regulations that set the standards for nursing practice and education, provide the minimum qualifications for licensure, and ensure that the disciplinary process is implemented in a fashion that guarantees due process and public protection.

The Board meets in odd numbered months for three consecutive days and in even numbered months by teleconference. Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held at the Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

Board Members and Staff

Janice Izlar, RN, CRNA, DNAP – President

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Member

Darrell W. Thompson, RN, DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC – Vice President

Registered Nursing Education Member

Tracey Blalock, RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC

Nursing Service Administration Member

Tammy Bryant, RN, MSN

Practical Nursing Education Member

Irene “Renie” Cordell, RN

Nursing Service Administration Member

Fredettena “Tina” Fletcher, LPN

Licensed Practical Nurse Member

Linda G. Floyd, RN, EdD, PMHNP-BC

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Member

Merry Fort, RN

Nursing Service Administration Member

K. Andrea Phipps, LPN

Licensed Practical Nurse Member

Jennifer Pipkin, RN, MSN, CRNA

Registered Nurse Member

Blair Train

Consumer Member

Jim Cleghorn, MA

Executive Director

Overview

As of June 30, 2019, the Board had record of the following active licenses:

Licensed Practical Nurse – 29,091

Licensed Practical Nurse – Multistate – 3,067

Advanced Practice - CRNA – 2,012

Advanced Practice - CNM - 581

Advanced Practice - NP – 12,337

Advanced Practice - CNS/PMH - 197

Advanced Practice - CNS - 157

Registered Professional Nurse - 130,316

Registered Professional Nurse – Multistate – 18,459

Committees of the Board

Investigative Committee

Members of the Board comprise two investigative committees. The investigative committees review complaints, investigations and other information to determine if a violation of the Nurse Practice Act has occurred and to make recommendations to the Board regarding disciplinary actions.

APRN Committee

The APRN Committee is comprised of twelve (12) authorized APRNs: two certified nurse midwives, three clinical nurse specialists, three certified registered nurse anesthetists and four nurse practitioners. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board and provides information and recommendations to the Board regarding the regulation of advanced practice registered nurses.

Nursing Education Committee

The Nursing Education Committee is comprised of twelve (12) registered nurses involved in registered and practical nursing education: three practical nursing education program members, two associate degree nursing education program members, three baccalaureate degree nursing education program members, one master's degree nursing education program member, one public nursing education program member, one private nursing education program member and one at-large member. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board and provides information and recommendations to the Board regarding the regulation of registered and practical nursing education programs.

Nursing Practice Committee

The Nursing Practice Committee is comprised of twelve (12) registered nurses involved in current nursing practice from a variety of practice settings. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board, reviews and analyzes practice trends and issues for nurses in Georgia and recommends programs, policies and strategies to enhance the practice of nursing.

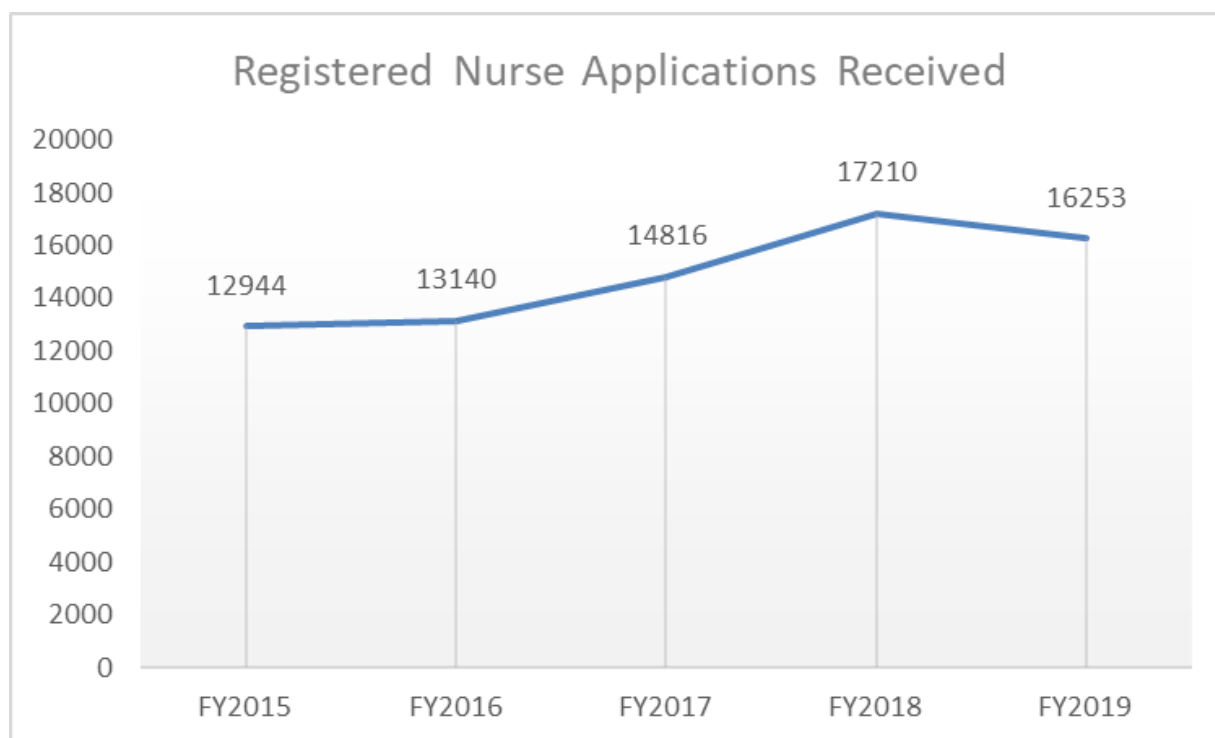
Licensing

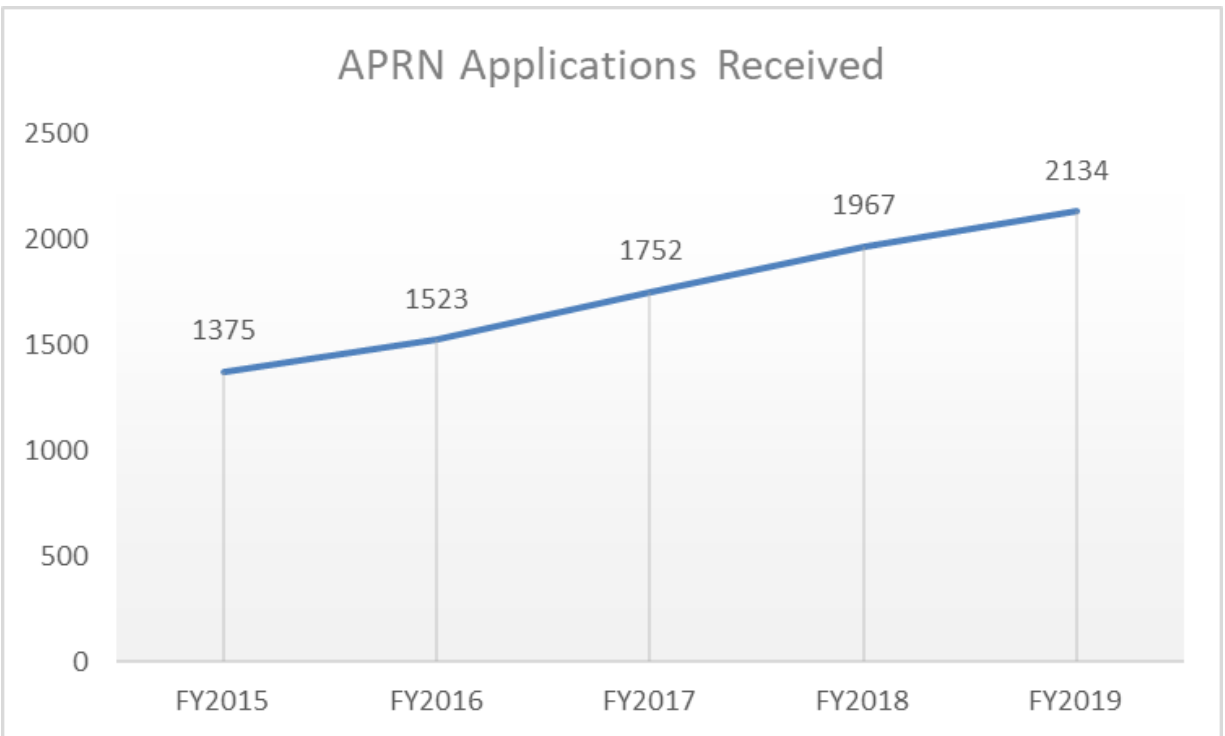
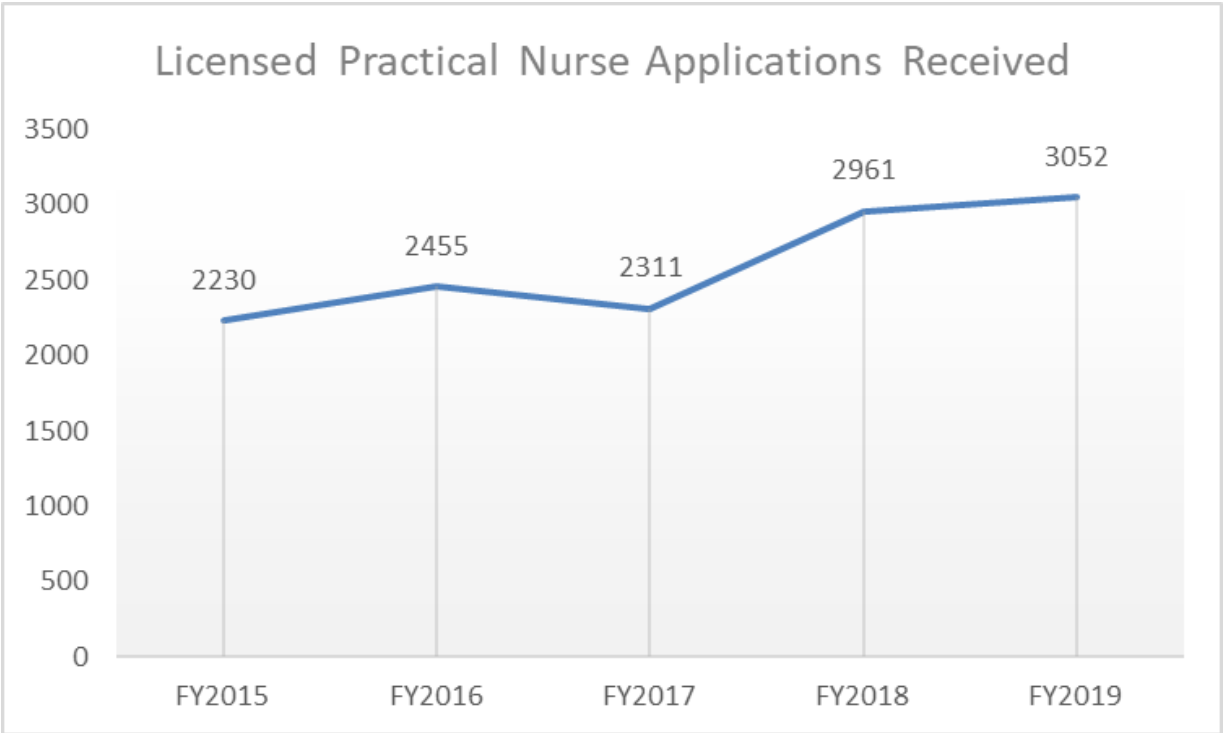
The Board exists to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare through legislative regulation and control of practical nursing, registered nursing and advanced practice registered nursing practice. This is accomplished by ensuring that licensed individuals meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for licensure and have the necessary education, training and skill to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

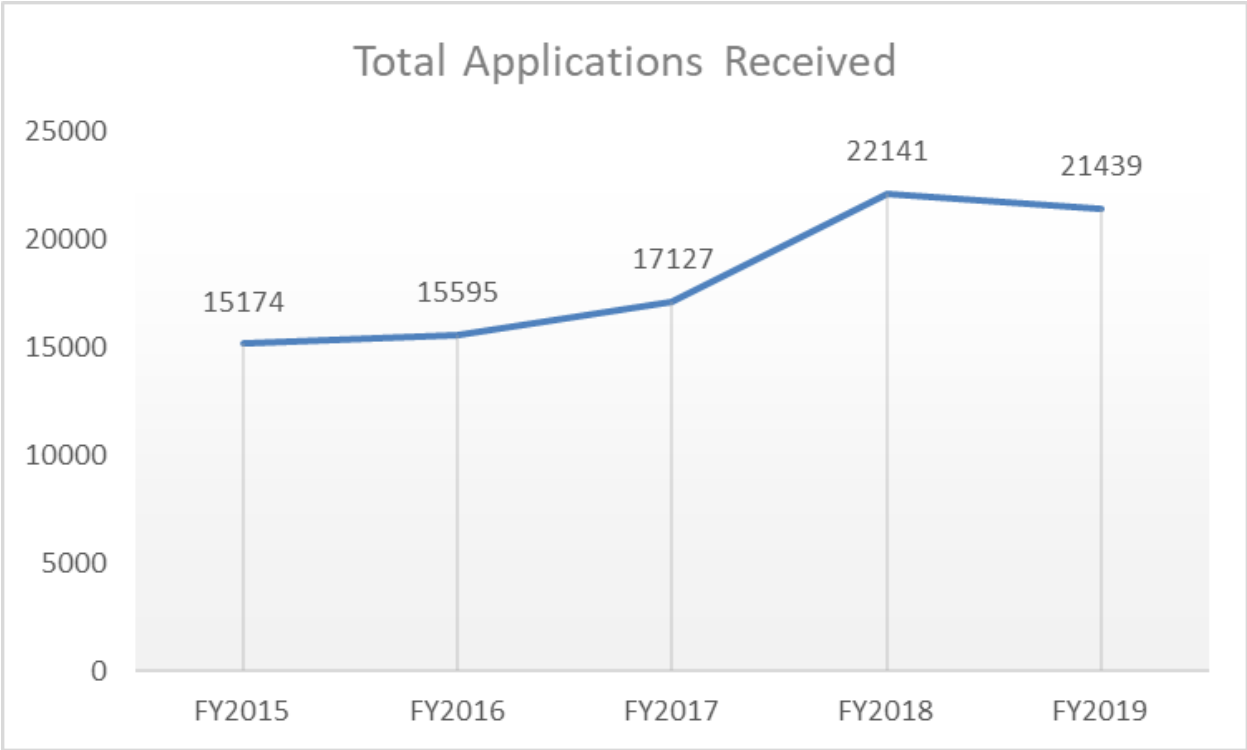
In FY2019, the Board received 21,439 (16,253 RN, 2,134 APRN and 3,052 LPN) applications for licensure. This number represents a 3.2% decrease in applications from FY2018 (22,141). The number of applications received has increased 41.3% since FY2015 (15,174).

Of the 21,439 applications received, 6,772 (5,616 RN and 1,156 LPN) applications were submitted to convert an existing single state license to a multistate license.

Applications Received From FY2015 Through FY2019

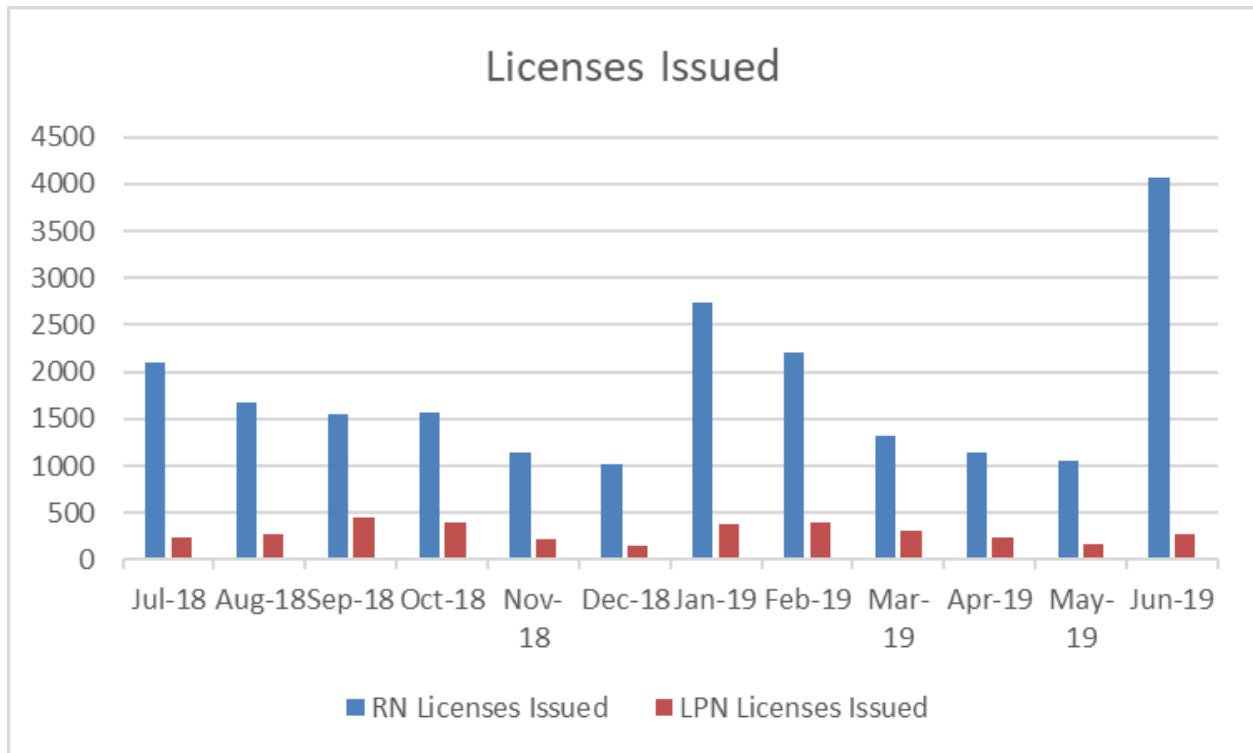






In FY2019, the Board issued 25,066 licenses (21,575 RN and 3,491 LPN). This represents a 64.7% increase in licenses issued since FY2018 (15,217). The number of licenses issued has increased 93.5% since FY2015 (12,952).

Licenses Issued

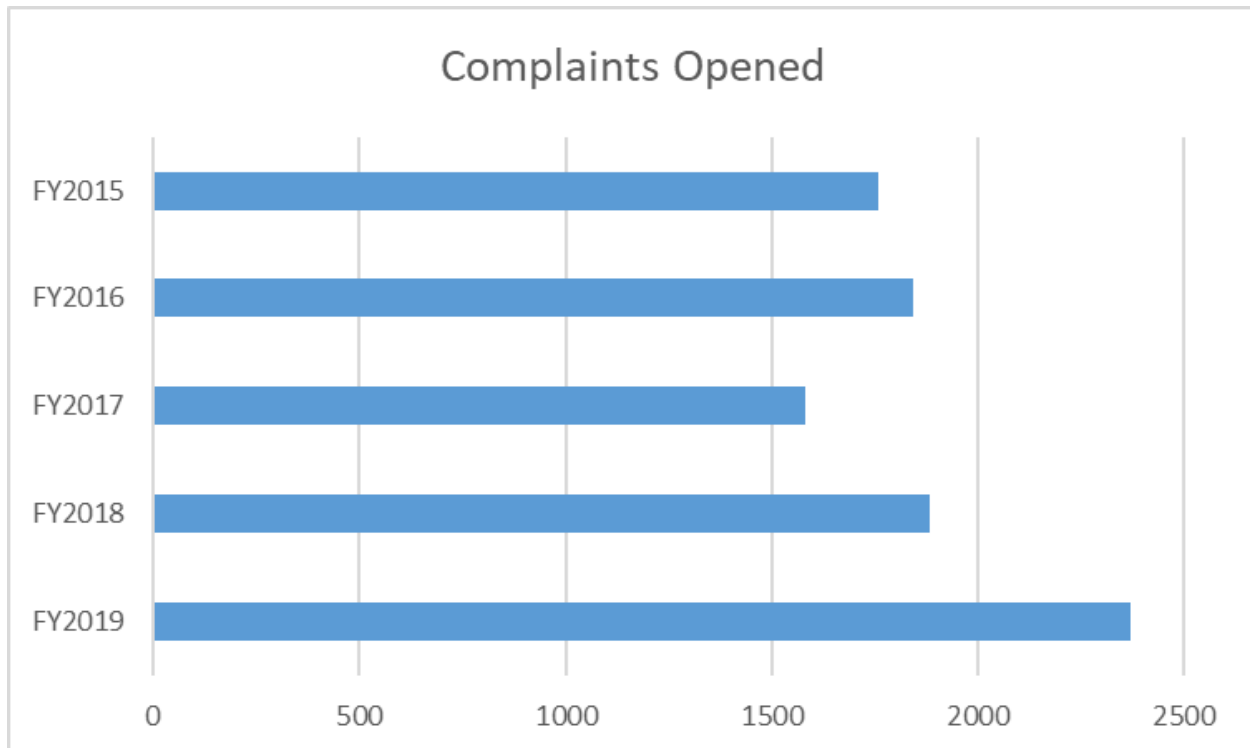


Enforcement

To fulfill its statutory mission to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare, the Board is responsible for enforcing the Georgia Nurse Practice Act and Board rules used for the regulation of the nursing profession in Georgia. This is accomplished by reviewing, investigating and taking action on complaints submitted to the Board regarding the practice of licensed nurses in Georgia.

In FY2019, the Board opened 2,368 complaints (1,522 RN and 846 LPN). This represents a 25.8% increase in complaints opened since FY2018 (1,882). The number of complaints received has increased 34.6% since FY2015 (1,759).

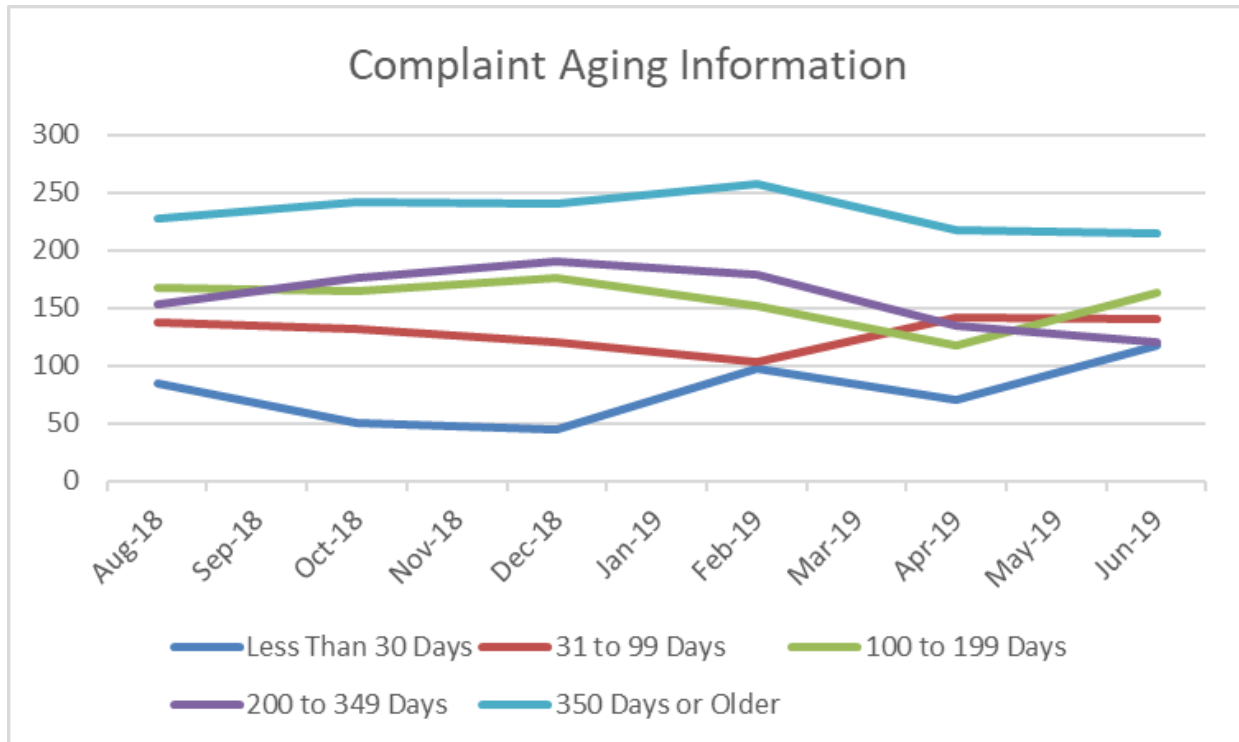
Complaints Opened by Fiscal Year



As of June 30, 2019, the Board had 656 open complaints (419 RN and 237 LPN). This represents a 12.2% decrease in open cases since June 2018 (747).

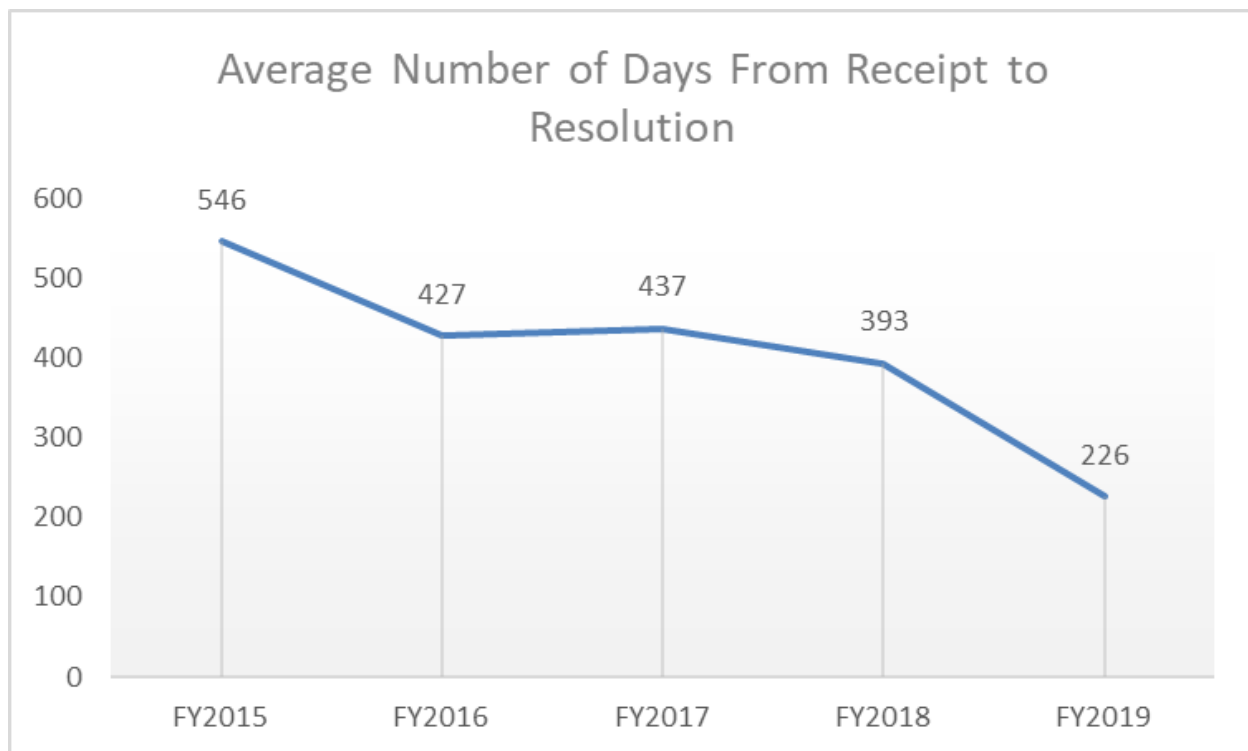
The Board tracks complaint aging information by tabulating the age of cases every two months in preparation for the Board meetings.

Complaint Aging Information



The Board tracks the total number of days a complaint aged from receipt to resolution. In FY2019, the average number of days a complaint aged decreased by 10% (226). The average number of days a complaint aged from receipt to resolution has decreased 58.6% since FY2015 (546).

Average Number of Days from Receipt To Resolution



Education

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed practical nursing education programs and registered nursing education programs. This is accomplished by reviewing proposals for new nursing education programs and ensuring that the institution has the components required in Board rules to open a successful nursing education program and by reviewing existing nursing education programs and ensuring compliance with all Board regulations.

Nursing Education Programs					
	Approval Status				
Programs	Developmental	Initial	Full	Conditional	Total
LPN	0	1	19	3	23
RN (ASN)	0	6	19	3	28
RN (BSN)	0	4	23	4	31
RN (MSN)	0	0	1	0	1
Total	0	11	62	10	83